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customs still preserved in Great Britain ; yet if a correct account could be given of the folk-lore of such a town as Marblehead, it would be found that a store of songs, tales, and superstitions remained, even pixies, goblins, and supernatural monsters being supposed to haunt the neighborhood. Mrs. Earle remarks that Puritan influence had abolished Christmas. An anecdote may be added in illustration : when, at the beginning of the present century, the master of the Latin School in Boston asked his pupils what was the day, no one could tell that it was Christmas. Yet in the last century (as the writer has learned by oral tradition), the old English mumming play was performed in the streets of the same city. It must not be forgotten that continual immigration led to assimilation ; in Boston, as Mrs. Earle remarks, the fashionable part of the community kept up dancing and card-playing with fervor. In many respects, the colony was, like all colonies, imitative of the metropolis, and retentive of fashions even after they had passed away in London. The early prosperity of the bookselling trade bears the most eloquent testimony to the intelligence of the newly settled population. Mrs. Earle observes the predominance of sermons among publications of the first century ; but this could not be otherwise, no passion except the religious impulse being sufficiently diffused and general to serve as the basis of trade. Just as the persecution of witches has led to absurd criticism (such cruelty being only the expression of superstition belonging to the whole civilized world), so the habit of "bundling" has led to ignorant reproach ; the truth being that this survival belonged alike to England, Wales, Holland, and Germany, and will be found, in the writer's opinion, to go back to much deeper roots than has hitherto been assigned, depending, not on the convenience of petty houses or of a rigorous climate, but on a prehistoric conception of marriage altogether different from that which now prevails. It would be interesting, if it were possible, to ascertain how much the rigor of the climate and of the life of New England contributed to the formation of a distinctly new type of character, and when appeared the American, as distinct from the English, personality ; but such growths are of necessity obscure. To us Americans the seventeenth century is what to Englishmen is the early Middle Age ; it is the period of the founders ; and as a thing is to be considered great, not because of its own natural character, but in consequence of its fruits, no attention is excessive which can be given to the period in which was laid the foundations of so mighty a structure.

W. W. N.

CONGRESSES AT THE COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION. The proceedings of the Anthropological Congress are understood to be in course of publication. With regard to the International Folk-Lore Congress our information is less satisfactory. It is to be hoped that an abstract may appear of the many valuable papers presented, in case the whole material be not included in a separate volume.

The Index of Journals, usually given in this department, must be reserved, and will be included in No. xxiv.